

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 107

BY REPRESENTATIVES TUCKER, BURFORD, DOERGE, HILL, HINES, KATZ,
LABRUZZO, NOWLIN, POPE, AND SIMON

HEALTH CARE/RECORDS: Urges and requests the Department of Health and Hospitals
to study whether Louisiana should implement information technology utilized by the
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals to study
3 whether Louisiana health care providers should be mandated to adopt the VistA
4 electronic medical record system technology utilized by the United States
5 Department of Veterans Affairs.

6 WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration, an agency of the United States
7 Department of Veterans Affairs and hereinafter referred to as the VA, provides care to over
8 four million veterans, employing over one hundred eighty thousand medical personnel and
9 one hundred sixty-three hospitals throughout the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, the VA utilizes the Veterans Health Information and Technology
11 Architecture (VistA) to manage its electronic medical records; and

12 WHEREAS, the VistA system allows for the management and retention of both
13 inpatient and clinical electronic medical records throughout the VA in a streamlined and
14 efficient manner; and

15 WHEREAS, the VistA system has been widely credited with reducing medical
16 mistakes and improving efficiency and safety within VA hospitals and clinics; and

17 WHEREAS, the VistA system is open-source and low-cost, which has been widely
18 adopted by nongovernmental hospitals and other health care entities; and

1 WHEREAS, the federal government, in accordance with the American Recovery and
2 Reinvestment Act of 2009, will invest billions toward the adoption of electronic medical
3 records spending millions in Louisiana; and

4 WHEREAS, adoption of the VistA system by public and private health care
5 providers may be a cost-effective and efficient use of federal tax dollars in Louisiana.

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
7 urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals, consulting with the Louisiana
8 Healthcare Quality Forum, to study whether Louisiana's public and private health care
9 providers should be mandated to adopt the VistA electronic medical record system and to
10 report its findings to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare no later than
11 October 1, 2009.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
13 secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Tucker

HCR No. 107

Urges and requests the secretary of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to study whether La. health care providers should be mandated to adopt the VistA electronic medical record system technology utilized by the U. S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs and to report its findings to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare no later than Oct. 1, 2009.